

Town of Shrewsbury - Board of Selectmen
Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building-Selectmen's Meeting Room
100 Maple Avenue
Monday, March 19, 2007 at 7:00 PM

Minutes

Present:

Bruce Card, Maurice DePalo, John Lebeaux, James McCaffrey, and Daniel Morgado, Town Manager. Mr. Lebeaux called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

Absent: Thomas Fiore.

Preliminaries:

1. Approve bills, payrolls and warrants, #0773 in the amount of \$1,639,384.70, and #0776 in the amount of \$5,206,552.47. Motion made, seconded and unanimously approved.
2. Announcements – Mr. Lebeaux advised that the churches of Shrewsbury are holding a Candlelight Prayer Vigil for Peace this evening at 7:00pm on the Town Common. Also, Parks & Recreation is sponsoring a bus trip to Boston on Saturday, April 14th at a cost of \$12.00 for residents. Registration for this and all spring programs can be made at Town Hall. The Cemetery Department reminds all lot owners at Mountain View that winter decorations need to be removed by April 1st. Any items left after that date will be removed by the department. Mr. Lebeaux announced that Common Cause of Mass. presented Shrewsbury with the 2007 E-Government Award in recognition of the availability of key town records on the web site. Out of 351 cities and towns in the state Shrewsbury is one of the 41 that have made these records available. Congratulations to the web coordinator, SELCO and the Town Clerk and Asst. Town Clerk for their efforts in making this happen. On April 23rd there will be a ceremony recognizing Shrewsbury as the fourth official “Storm Ready” community in Massachusetts here in this room. Michael Filiere, Director of Emergency Management, and James Arnold, Deputy Director, have worked hard to make this possible along with Fire Chief Gerry LaFlamme and the other members of the team. Mr. DePalo advised that he had received some complaints about snow removal from the last storm and had spoken to Highway Supt. John Knipe. Mr. Knipe explained that the snow on the roads had become packed down before the snow removal crews could get to them and the sleet that followed the snow froze, forcing them to wait for the sun to come up and activate the salt/sand to assist in the removal. It was a very difficult storm.
3. Town Manager's Report - Nothing other than what is on the Agenda. Mr. Morgado added that he had revised the material he distributed at a meeting last week and will be posting it on the web site.

Meetings:

Public Hearings:

Old Business:

4. Sign Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Morgado read the prepared wording for the proposition 2 _ question. “Shall the Town of Shrewsbury be allowed to assess an additional \$5,000,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the town and school budgets for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007? Yes____ No____” This wording is consistent with that used by the Town of Arlington. The Board will come back to this item after review of the warrant. Mr. Morgado reviewed the warrant. Articles 1-4 - no changes. Article 5 – standard. Articles 7, 8, 9 & 10 – budget and proposition 2 _ question related. Article 11 – cemetery. Article 12 – prior year's bills. Article 13 – streets. Article 14 – land. Article 15 – change from Jarvis Land Survey to 29 Grafton Circle. Article 16 – overlay for a single parcel to divide into several parcels. Article 17 – accept law. Article 18 – school busing contract. Article 19 – storm water bylaw. Article 20 – storm & surface drains. Article 21 – sidewalks. Article 22 - sewers. Articles 23, 24, & 25 - improvements to water system. Article 26 – Donahue Rowing Center. Article 27 – COA bus. Article 28 – repay landfill capping grant. Article 29 – counseling & educational services. Articles 30, 31, & 32 – standard articles. Mr.

Lebeaux opened the discussion to the Board on the proposition 2 _ question. Mr. Lebeaux stated that he was in favor of putting a \$5,000,000 override question on the ballot this year and pledging not to ask voters to consider another override for the next three years. He added that if the question passes it will not completely resolve the situation but it will bring some stability to the budget and a sense of what is going to happen to the community. It will not make everything go back to where it was previously but will solve some problems. Departments will still have to practice a great deal of fiscal restraint. If no changes occur to the costs of health care, pensions, etc. in the next three years we may be facing a similar situation at that time. Mr. Card advised that he also would support a proposition 2 _ override question this year for the good of the town but he was not happy about it. The Town Manager and Finance Committee will have to hold everyone to keeping a close watch on their budgets. Mr. McCaffrey added that he was also in favor of placing a \$5 million override question multiple year single question on the ballot. The impact on the tax rate for this amount would be .97 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The impact on a median priced single family home would be \$360 per year. The increase, if passed, will not solve all the problems and it is not meant to. Budgets will have to be carefully watched and departments will have to be cautious and not spend foolishly. Mr. DePalo said he also supports putting the proposition 2 _ question on the ballot. Should it pass, he is confident that with good planning and budgeting the town can maintain services and restore a few others. However, both municipal and school sides must stay within spending limits. The fact that the Board will not be asking for an override for the next three years will force us to keep budgets in line. It is time to start thinking about the future and it is up to the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, and Finance Committee to inspire leadership over the next few years as to where the town is headed. Mr. Lebeaux advised that because Mr. Fiore could not be present this evening he had asked him to read his statement regarding the question into the record. Mr. Fiore stated that he is in support of bringing forward a single operational override question this year with a pledge not to bring forward another question for the next three years. Motion was made that pursuant to General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C(g) the following question be placed onto the ballot of the May 1, 2007 Annual Town Election as follows: "Shall the Town of Shrewsbury be allowed to assess an additional \$5,000,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the town and school budgets for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007?"

Yes ____ No ____" Motion was seconded and voted four in favor. Roll call vote: Mr. DePalo, yes, Mr. Card, yes, Mr. McCaffrey, yes, and Mr. Lebeaux, yes. The question will go on the ballot for the Town election on May 1, 2007. Mr. Morgado advised that an informational booklet will be distributed to all households in town regarding the question. It will contain the full text of the question, a summary of the question by Town Counsel outlining the effect of a yes or no vote, and pro and con statements from the principal proponents and opponents of the question limited to 250 words. Two ballot question committees have registered with the Town Clerk, one for and one against the question. The principal representative of each group will be contacted and advised of the date by which written arguments must be received. This date will be designated by the Selectmen. The notice shall be issued at least fourteen days before the date by which the written arguments must be received. Motion was made to print and send to each residence of one or more voters whose name appears on the latest voting list for the town and to make available at each polling place the full text of the override question, a fair and concise summary of the question including the effect of a yes or no vote prepared by Town Counsel and arguments for and against the question from the principal proponents and opponents. Motion was seconded and voted four in favor. Roll call vote: Mr. Card, yes, Mr. McCaffrey, yes, Mr. DePalo, yes, and Mr. Lebeaux, yes.

New Business:

5. Reappoint Alfred Confalone, 24 Country Way, as a member of the ZBA for a term of two years expiring March 31, 2009. Motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to reappoint Alfred Confalone to the ZBA for a term of two years expiring March 31, 2009.

Mr. DePalo said that he had been advised that several proponents of the question had received anonymous letters attacking their views and them personally. He stated that people need to be able to voice their opinions on both sides of the issue and others need to respect their right to do so. Mr. Lebeaux advised that he had been made aware of this as well. He stated that the Board not usually mention unsigned correspondence but he was breaking that rule in this instance. The Board had received an unsigned letter asking them if they had any backbone. He noted that

the Board members make their statements in public and in front of the television cameras whereas the writer of the letter does not have the backbone to sign his/her letter.

Executive Session:

6. Collective bargaining, pending litigation, and value of real property. No executive session.

Communications:

7. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Melisa Hollenback, 38 Stoney Hill Road, re Budget. For override.
8. Noted copy mailed: Senator Kerry Monthly Grant Update.
9. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Mark Riggs, 12 Ryan Road, re Budget. For override.
10. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Mike Fernacz, 10 Crane Circle, re Budget. For override.
11. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Wenhli Xue & Phoebe Huang, 2 Thoreau Circle, re Budget. For override.
12. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Joe Xu, 19 Myriah Road, re Budget. For override.
13. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Weigun Li, 121 Crescent Street, re Budget. For override.
14. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Kristin & Mike Rider, 12 Heronwood Drive, re Budget. For override.
15. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from David & Lisa Easson, 47 Olde Colony Drive, re Budget. For override.
16. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Rachael Missall, 23 Cypress Street, re Budget. For override.
17. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Betty-Jo Booth, 18 Saxon Lane, re Budget. For override.
18. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Leslie Stambler, 4 Ashton Drive, re Budget. For override.
19. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from James Smith, 4 Merriam Avenue, re Budget. For override.
20. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Gary Ma, 5 King Arthur Road, re Budget. For override.
21. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from John Lukach, 4 Bunker Hill Road, re Budget. A very thoughtful letter in opposition to the override. Mr. Lebeaux will respond.
22. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from William Royer, 11 Wachusett Circle, re Budget. For override.
23. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Bob & Penny McLaren, 6 Liberty Tree Lane, re Budget. For override.
24. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Wynn Bowers, 2 Keyes House Road, re Budget. For override.
25. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Debbie & John McCabe, 28 Saxon Lane, re Budget. For override.
26. Noted copy mailed: ZBA Hearing Agenda, 3/27/07.
27. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Van Berube, Jr., 53 Walnut Street, re Budget. For override.
28. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Giuseppe Barbesino, MD, 19 Stoney Hill Road, re Budget. For override.
29. Noted copy mailed: Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) 2007 Traffic Count Program. Forward to Engineering.
30. Noted copy mailed: ZBA Hearing Minutes 2/20/07, Nancy E. Allen, 54 Lakeside Drive.
31. Noted copy mailed: ZBA Hearing Minutes, 2/20/07, Linda Rioux, 30 Fairlawn Circle.
32. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Susan Zweizig, 2 Keyes House Road, re Budget. For override.
33. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Cynthia Wright, 1 Cooper Drive, re Budget. For override.
34. Noted copy mailed: Letter from Philip Beaudry, 45 Thomas Farm Circle, re Eagle Scout Project. Mr. Morgado will check to determine what departments would be involved and get their thoughts on the project.
35. Noted copy mailed: CMRPC request to complete Mass. Assoc. of Regional Planning Agencies Local Permitting Survey. Forward to Engineering.
36. Noted copy mailed: Notice from CMRPC re Availability of No Cost Technical Assistance. To be reviewed.
37. Noted copy mailed: Letter from Neha Patel, College of the Holy Cross, re Habitat for Humanity International.
38. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Jundong Song, 11 Sinclair Road, re Budget. For override.
39. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Becky Dalke, 25 Keyes House Road, re Budget. For override.
40. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Christopher & Sheila Stille, 15 Saxon Lane, re Budget. For override.
41. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Tammy Blakeslee, 7 Carter Road, re Budget. For override.
42. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Carl Pitney, 11 Mars Drive, re Budget. For override.
43. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Cheryl & John Barron, 147 No. Quinsigamond Avenue, re intersection of Audubon Road & No. Quinsigamond Avenue and response from Building Inspector Ron Alarie. No further action is necessary. Mr. Alarie has sent a comprehensive response.
44. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Megan & Kevin Hyland, 237 South Street, re Budget. For override.
45. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Chris & De DeLauder, 3 Ryan Road, re Budget. For override.
46. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Dean Temple, 18 Thomas Farm Circle, re Budget. For override.

47. Noted copy mailed: E-mail From Lisa Cossette, 23 Stonybrook Lane, re Budget. For override.
48. Noted copy mailed: Letter from Therese Lunt, 11 Walnut Street, re Candlelight Prayer Vigil for Peace.
49. Noted copy mailed: City & Town, Vol. 20, No. 2 - March 2007.
50. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Mireya Wessolosssky, M.D., 9 Old Farm Circle, re Budget. For override.
51. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Yimin Shen, 49 Hemingway Street, re Budget. For override.
52. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Karyn Moffa, 20 Stonybrook Lane, re Budget. For override.
53. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Monica Maher, 52 Maple Circle, re Budget. For override.
54. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Cynthia Wright, 1 Cooper Drive, re Budget. For override.
55. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Deborah Demarco, M.D., 9 Horseneck Road, re Budget.
56. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Amy Kotsopoulos, 29 Estabrook Road, re Budget. For override.
57. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Deborah Temple, 18 Thomas Farm Circle, re Budget. For override.
58. Noted copy mailed: CMMPO Meeting Notice & Agenda.
59. Noted copy mailed: Westborough Treatment Plant Board Meeting Minutes, 2/16/07.
60. Noted copy mailed: Veolia Water Monthly Compliance Report, February 2007.
61. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Michelle Duke, 33 Olde Colony Drive, re Budget. For override.
62. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Gail Flynn, 784 Grafton Street, re Budget. For override.
63. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Steve Danielson, 75 Stoney Hill Road, re Budget. For override.
64. Noted copy mailed: E-mail from Dr. Lauren Hamm, 5 Timari Drive, re Budget. For override.
65. Noted copy mailed: School Committee Meeting Minutes, 2/28/07 & 3/2/07.

Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:04pm. On a roll call vote Mr. McCaffrey, yes, Mr. Card, yes, Mr. DePalo, yes, and Mr. Lebeaux, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice C. McCoy
Secretary